

A REAL THRILLER

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VOL. 50—NO. 1

BRIDGEPORT, CONN., THURSDAY, JANUARY 1, 1914

Search Is Continued For Missing Son For Whom Dying Mother Continually Weeps

Frederick A. Bennett Refuses, After
Hearing Letter Read, To Deny Or
Affirm That He Is Albert J. Ben-
nett Sought For Five Years

Father of Albert J. Bennett Was Known As Inventor of
Cash Grocery Store Plan, and Was Once Successful
Business Man—Coincidence Multiply Showing
Strange Confusion Between Identity of Much Sought
Son and Secretary of Manufacturers' Association.

"I refuse to deny that I am not Al-
bert J. Bennett whose mother is dy-
ing in Waltham. I refuse to say that
I am Albert J. Bennett."

"If Mr. O'Neill comes from Waltham
to see me for the purpose of identify-
ing me with Albert J. Bennett, I do
not know whether I will see him or
not."

This spoke Frederick A. Bennett,
secretary of the Bridgeport Manu-
facturers' Association, this morning,
after certain facts had been called to
his attention, regarding the mysteri-
ous case of disputed identity of which
he has become the object.

The conversation was a letter,
which was read to Secretary Bennett,
because it contained facts which
seemed to increase the number of co-
incidences tending to show this prob-
lem and successful young man as
having, through some eight or nine
years, lived a life identical at many
points with that of the much sought
Albert J. Bennett.

Both men, Frederick A., the suc-
cessful and rising young officer of an
important and dignified civil body,
and Albert J., the son whose dying
mother craves his presence at her
bedside, had been born in Boston, had
parents of the same Christian names,
had learned the business of telegraph-
y, were about the same age, had
been married in the same city, and
both were young men of the same
name.

The letter, which was called to Sec-
retary Bennett's attention, is written
by J. E. O'Neill, 211 Broadway street,
as of Dec. 31, 1913. The writer says:
"The Albert J. Bennett, whom I
seek, is my wife's brother, who has
not been heard from directly for five
years. I have had reason to believe
he was still in the vicinity of
Bridgeport. The family came here
about 20 years ago from Boston, where
the father, Andrew Bennett, conduct-
ed a market in the North End, the
first of its kind, on Main street, West
End, Waltham, shortly after moving
here and for a number of years was
very successful. He being known as
the father of the cash market. Later,
disposing of his business he moved to
Allston, Boston, Mass., where he was
secretary of St. Anthony's church and
was in that capacity at the time of his
death, nine years ago. Mr. Bennett
was first in business in Portland, Me.,
previous to his coming to Boston."

"The youngest son, Albert J. Ben-
nett, was a bookkeeper for the com-
pany in Boston, about the time of
the father's death. Later, taking
up the study of telegraphy, he secured
a berth with the N. Y. N. H. & H.
R. R. at New York. I believe he was
an excellent telegrapher and was also
at Sandy Hook. Naturally
ambitious, he sought advancement, and
about that time, all news from him
ceased. I was informed that he was friend-
ly with and afterwards married a Miss
Maud Blackman, a school teacher, the
first or thereabouts of January, 1911.
Perhaps he had reasons to desire to
keep out of sight."

"His mother thereafter was dependent
on her two sons-in-law, both with
large families. The mother is now
with her oldest son, suffering with a
mortal illness, long or short, we know
not which."

"The information in regard to his
later work since leaving the railroad
was only meagre, but as to his mar-
riage my informant was sure, saying
that it was the first week in Janu-
ary, 1911."

"The following month, Feb. 1911,
the mother, Margaret Bennett, came
on a visit to my house, and falling on
her head received injuries to her head
denying her, at first in a very danger-
ous condition, for several months at
my home. A letter sent by one of
the family reached him at his work,
one of many letters, that did not come
back. He had not an answer."

"For a time, in discouragement, I
gave up the quest, but now with the
mother's illness, I took up the search,
to try and bring him to see his moth-
er, and make up if possible for the
past. Should the man prove to be the
right one according to the date of
marriage at Bridgeport, then I feel
that I have done my duty."

Albert J. Bennett was a telegrapher.
He worked in Sandy Hook, as a tele-
grapher. He was married in New-
town, during the first week in Jan-
uary, 1911, to a young lady named Maud
Blackman, who was a school teacher.
Many letters were sent to him, and
none were returned. There is no record in New-
town of the presence of an Albert J.
Bennett, upon the poll tax list, or the
voting list. There is no record of a
marriage between such a person and
any Maud Blackman.

Frederick A. Bennett was formerly
a telegrapher. He was employed as
a telegrapher in Sandy Hook. He was
married in Newtown, Jan. 4, 1911, to
an estimable young woman named
Maud Blackman, who was a school
teacher. The fact of the mar-
riage is duly recorded in the office of
Oscar Fitzschler, registrar of vital sta-
tistics.

"Is this Mr. Frederick A. Bennett?"
asked a reporter of The Farmer when
telephonic communication with him

Iranistan avenue had been estab-
lished.

"This is a Farmer reporter talking,
Mr. Bennett. Could you find it con-
venient to drop down to our office
sometime this morning?"

"I could not," said the voice.
"You have read the story published
about Albert J. Bennett in our recent
issues, have you not?"

"I have read some of them."
"Did you read the article in yester-
day's paper? If you did you will ap-
preciate that we were very careful to
give you the benefit of every doubt,
and now that we have additional in-
formation in the form of a letter from
Mr. O'Neill in Waltham, we have no
doubt you will be interested in its
contents. As it is short, I will read it
to you."

A perusal of the letter up to the
point where the reader told of A. J.
Bennett having located in Naugatuck
was interrupted by: "I thought you
said it was a short letter."

"Yes, but I am not concerned in it
interest to you, but there is one part
upon which we would like to have
you furnish some information (quoting
it) was informed that he was
identical with and married a Miss
Maud Blackman, a school teacher,
about January, 1911. You are the
same man, Mr. Bennett, are you not,
that married Miss Blackman?"

"Why do you ask me to furnish in-
formation in this newspaper matter at all. I do not
consider that it is any of your busi-
ness—of any body—else's."

"You are the man sought for by the
public, and you know anybody else
by that name?"

"As I said, I am not interested."
"Where you ever in Waltham?"
"Will you let me ask you a party
who sent your information from there
and find out?"

"We have done that. Mr. Bennett,
and the people there are of the opin-
ion you are A. J. Bennett. In cour-
tesy to yourself we now wish you to
clear up the matter so that there can
be no confusion—either admit that
you are the man sought for, or deny the
identity altogether. You will ap-
preciate that this matter has now re-
ceived wide publicity and it seems to
us that you would desire to clear the
matter up."

"I do not want to have you publish
any statement coming from me as I
am not making any statements. I
am absolutely not interested at all.
Any suggestions I might make would
be to write to those parties and tell
them to come here and see whether I
am the man and if they want to get
me they can do it. I should think this
would be a more pleasant way than
by the newspaper publicity, that has
been given the affair."

"As a matter of fact, Mr. Bennett,
we expect that Mr. O'Neill or some re-
lative of A. J. Bennett will arrive here
today. As this matter is of interest
to the public we would like to have
you say whether you are, or are not,
A. J. Bennett. Will you deny that
you are?"

"I will say either way. Whatever
you find out you can say. I do not
want to see where the public is interest-
ed."

"Well, Mr. Bennett, you will appre-
ciate that the public can help but
feel interested in a man who changes
his religion, his name and then en-
ters a Masonic fraternity. Further-
more, the sympathy of the public is
naturally extended to a dying moth-
er whose son refuses to see her or ac-
knowledge her. Are you this or are
not?"

"I think I took care of that the
other day when your reporter was
around my office. I do not want to
make any statements."

"If you are not the same man, I
would seem that you would have no
objection. Do I understand that you
will not see him?"

"I am not interested in this matter
and therefore do not wish to make
any statements."

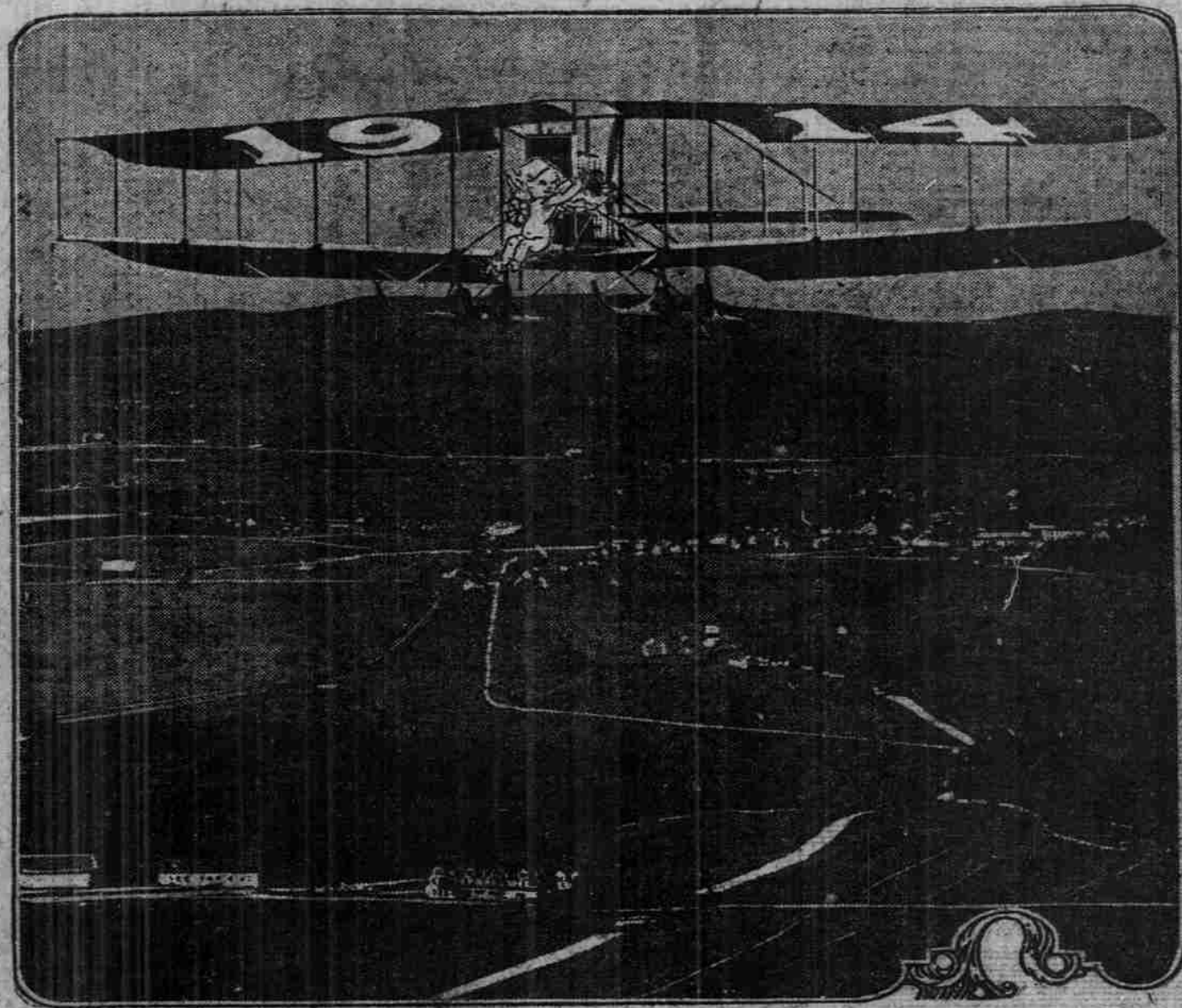
The conversation then closed.

BENNETT'S SISTER HAD LETTER FROM MISS MAUD BLACKMAN

(Special to The Farmer.)
Waltham, Mass., Jan. 4.—While his
mother is slowly dying at the home
of her son in Brookline, another son
for whom the sick woman is crying
continually, persistently refuses to
communicate with her and denies his
identity.

Albert J. Bennett, shortly after his
father's death, some nine years ago,
left home to make his way in the
world. He was then a young man un-
der age. For some time his mother
heard from him occasionally, but his
letters gradually grew fewer in num-
ber and finally ceased altogether. Mrs.
Bennett was in poor health and con-
tinually spoke of her son. Several
times the family heard that he was

NEW-BORN 1914 COMES WINGING ITS WAY OVER HILL AND DALE WITH A MESSAGE OF HOPE



The old year is gone with all its
joys and all its sorrows, and 1914
comes to us bearing a horn of plenty

and promising to make amends for
whatever unpleasant things 1913 may
have done to us. And it travels by
aeroplane this year, does 1914, instead

of by automobile, as in the past, thus
showing that up to date is the
imperative order of the day.

REQUISITIONS FOR MILLION IN AUDITOR'S HANDS

Requisitions calling for \$2,748,500.23
have been filed with City Auditor
Keating for the expenses of various
city departments for the ensuing year.
These requisitions make up less than
two-thirds of the city budget. The
city auditor must yet estimate the
amounts required for salaries of many
city officials and for payments on city
debts, bonds, interest, and state tax.

The city auditor will prepare his
estimate within a week.
Following is the list of requisitions
led to date with the auditor:
Board of Assessors \$15,227.00
Board of Selectmen 450.00
Sinking Fund Commission 19,500.00
City Engineer 26,160.00
Harbor Master 1,550.00
Board of Appeals 3,850.00
Public Works 274,573.17
Sealer of Weights and
Measures 4,406.00
City Attorney 2,500.00
Police Department 294,222.35
Building Commissioner 6,285.00
City Court 16,180.00
Tax Collector 6,650.00
Personal Tax Collectors 5,290.00
Streets and Sidewalks Com-
mittee 462,689.00
Registrars of Voters 9,123.00
Board of Contract and
Supply 5,830.00
Park Board 136,986.00
Board of Education 115,161.00
Board of Health 465,534.00
Charities Department 249,432.58
Town Clerk 386,227.00
Public Library 1,500.55
Board of Relief 27,875.00
Harbor Committee 1,065.00
General Tax Committee 800.00
Claims Committee 1,550.00
Sewers Committee 5,682.00
Fire Department Com-
mittee 200.00
Vocational Machines Com-
mittee 1,500.00
City Hall Committee 6,534.00
Lamps Committee 89,538.76

LEAGUE HEADS PLAN NEW SCHEDULE FOR U. S. BASEBALL CLUBS

Chicago, Jan. 1.—President E. B.
Johnson and Secretary H. B. B.
Johnson of the American League, left for
Pittsburgh, Pa., today where they will
meet Barney Dreyfuss, of the Pittsburgh
National League team and Secretary
Heydler, of the National League and
prepare the playing schedules for
1914 of the National and American
Leagues.

President Johnson said the Ameri-
can League season will open April 14
and probably would close Oct. 7. The
National League season will open
April 14 and probably close about
Oct. 5.

MITCHELL SWORN IN AS MAYOR OF NEW YORK CITY

New York, Jan. 1.—John Purroy
Mitchell was inducted into the office
of mayor of New York at noon today
with the simplest ceremonies. Only a
few friends of the outgoing and in-
coming mayors and the more promi-
nent city officials were present. The
ceremony consisted only of the leave-
taking of Mayor Adolph L. Kline,
who in the few months since Mayor
Gaynor died has made himself re-
spected throughout the whole city,
and an address by Mr. Mitchell who
for four years will be the head of
the greatest city in the country. He
is the youngest mayor New York has
ever had.

The addresses which were made by
Mr. Mitchell and Mr. Kline were brief
and the formalities probably did not
last more than fifteen minutes. Im-
mediately after the close of the for-
mal observance of a new mayor tak-
ing office, the doors of city hall were
thrown open and Mr. Mitchell held a
public reception.

Berlin.—The German capital is cov-
ered with 14 inches of snow. Near
Halle a crowded passenger train is
stalled. The gale on the North coast
has subsided.

MITCHELL WILL DEVOTE EFFORTS TO UNION CAUSE

Lansing, Mich., Jan. 1.—John Mit-
chell, whose term as vice-president of
the American Federation of Labor ex-
pired last night, announced today that
his retirement from official life in the
Federation does not mean that he
will cease his activities in the interest
of labor. He said he would devote
his time largely to writing for "the
cause."

As the clock struck 12 last night
Mitchell was standing on the platform
in Labor hall here pleading before the
striking miners in the copper coun-
try. "It is with a sense of regret," he
said, "that I step out as an officer in
the American Federation of Labor,
but I am glad that I have the op-
portunity to be fighting for organized
labor during the last hours of my
official connection with the organiza-
tion."

WATCH OLD YEAR OUT AND NEW YEAR IN

There were a number of enjoyable
parties about town last night in honor
of the Old and New Year. One of
the pleasantest of these was given by
Mr. and Mrs. M. H. Kenny of 432 Sea-
view avenue for their daughter, Miss
Anna, who attends Laureton Hall, in
Milford, and their son, Henry, who is
a student of Leonard Hall, Maryland.

A dainty luncheon was served and
the New Year welcomed with much
jollity by the young people.

Those present were the Misses Julia
and Agnes McGuinness, Violet Rock,
Florence Victory, Beatrice Burnes,
Loretta McKenna, Irene Hazen, El-
len Donahue, Anna Schrader, Mary
Clancy, Elizabeth Toole, Ruth Miller,
Elizabeth Lee, Marion Cullen, Hazel
Dunn, Ersula Clabby, Celia McGiv-
ern and Anna Kenny.

The young men present were: El-
wood Weiss, Robert Fay and his two
house guests, David Murquett, and
Robert Connelly, Paul Sheenan, Rob-
ert Jeff, Robert Phalen, Irving Coates,
Clarence Keating, George Moore,
Frank Denny, Robert Hurley, C. Mil-
ler, Clarence Landey, Robert Trobert,
Henry Kenny, Chester Barlow and
Warren Irving.

DIPLOMATS ATTEND BRYAN'S BREAKFAST

Washington, Jan. 1.—New Year's
Day in the Capitol passed over with-
out a White House reception for the
first time in more than a century.
For the first time since the day of
President Monroe, in the absence of
President Wilson, who is taking a
vacation in the south, a breakfast to
the diplomatic corps by Secretary
and Mrs. Bryan was the principal so-
cial function of the day. More than
three hundred guests gathered with
the secretary at state at his home.
Practically all the ambassadors, min-
isters and members of the embassy
and legation staffs, with the women
of their families, were present.

Grace Waiters, nine years old and
living at 27 Arctic street, was treated
at the emergency hospital last night
for a dog bite on her left shoulder.
She thought that the animal belongs to
John Corbett.

HOLIDAY BRINGS LULL IN SHELTON TEXTILE STRIKE

Strong Arm Squad And Strike Break-
ers Remain Inside The Big Plant
Feasting In Their Well Equipped
Living Quarters

An Enthusiastic Meeting Of Women
Strikers In Derby Brings Encour-
agement --- Hundreds Of Mill
Workers In Churches But Return
Directly Home --- No Progress
Towards Capturing Assailant Of
Mary Smarsh

(By Our Staff Correspondent.)

Shelton, Jan. 1.—Were it not for the
presence, on street corners, of little
knots of special deputy sheriffs, there
would be no indications of any un-
usual conditions in this place, today.

Acting on the advice of their leaders,
Matilda Rabinowitz, the Blumenthal
mills strikers remained in their homes,
today, enjoying the holiday the same
as if they had been granted a day's
respite. There was no picketing, no
meeting of the strikers, no early morn-
ing demonstrations such as have
marked the proceedings of the strike-
ers during the last seven weeks. To-
day was a real holiday, for police as
well as strikers. Not a single one of
the O'Brien guards was on the streets
this forenoon. All with the strike-
breakers remained inside the big fac-
tory buildings and feasted, in the fine
appointed dining room, lolling luxu-
riously on their well furnished cots,
and played cards.

But the strike breakers and strong
armed forces were not the only people
in Shelton to have a day of comfort.
In hundreds of homes of the strikers
there was an abundance of holiday
cheer. The mill workers here are a
frugal lot, and the strike did not put
them unprepared. There is little
hardship. While none of the homes
of the mill workers affords many lux-
uries, most of them are well stocked
with provisions and coal, and there
has been no crying demand for the
funds that have come in from other
mill towns and from individual sub-
scriptions.

A meeting of women mill workers
was held in Sokol hall, Derby, last
night. The chief speaker was Miss
Rabinowitz. She communicated, for-
mally, to the women, what all had
known for hours, before, that the
Supt. Stolzenberg had refused even to
meet their committee of seven who
went to the factory offices yesterday
to treat with him.

"It was a great meeting," said Miss
Rabinowitz. "The hall was jammed
to the doors. We have daily meetings,
but the meeting of last night was
announced as especially for the wom-
en. The men would not stay away."

Most of the factories in Shelton are
idle today, for the holiday, and for
that reason there was hardly a soul
on the streets in the early morning
hours. Hundreds of the strikers and
their families attended the masses in
the Catholic churches, but returned
home at once, and in most instances
the strikers spent the day indoors.

George Barlow, warden of the bor-
ough, has issued a public appeal to
the Shelton residents to refrain from
congregating in crowds on the streets
during the progress of the strike.

BUCKINGHAM KEPT THE MIDNIGHT OIL BURNING TILL 2:30

Not among those at local hostilities
and dining rooms welcoming the ad-
vent of the New Year was Compensa-
tion Commissioner E. T. Buckingham
who, in the early morning, spent the
office with desk piled high with cor-
respondence and trying to catch up.
Until 2:30 o'clock this morning he
worked and was up before the gray
dawn had hardly arrived to continue
it. Today there were 150 registered
letters and 150 ordinary letters re-
ceived. Many of them have not been
touched, but are all being answered
as rapidly as possible. About the
same number were received yester-
day. A large share was of inquiries
concerning various phases and ap-
plications of the law.

General satisfaction on the part of
both employers and employees is ex-
pressed. Practically no large em-
ployers have declined to avail them-
selves of the act. A few workmen
have called asking for information.
The question concerning which the
most information is desired seems to
be the application of the law in cases
of there being less than five employees.

WIDOW CELEBRATES 100TH BIRTHDAY

New Haven, Jan. 1.—Mrs. Charles
Collins, a widow, celebrated her cen-
tenary birthday at her home here to-
day. She was the recipient of many
congratulations from relatives and
friends. She is in good health, her
mind is clear and her sight and hear-
ing very good.

OBITUARY

The funeral of Charles H. Hender-
son, a widow, celebrated her cen-
tenary birthday at her home here to-
day. She was the recipient of many
congratulations from relatives and
friends. She is in good health, her
mind is clear and her sight and hear-
ing very good.

There were women enough on hand
to fill the hall but the men kept
crowding in until the place was pack-
ed. Half a dozen of the women mill
workers, who never before had at-
tempted to speak publicly, took the
platform and exhorted their comrades
to remain loyal. There was a great
manifestation of solidarity—a demon-
stration of the spirit that is bound
to win out.

The Sterling Opera House in Derby
has been rented for the mass meeting
of all workers to be held a week from
Sunday, when a number of noted
leaders are expected. "Bill" Hag-
wood, Giovanni and others have
been invited to speak. The arrange-
ments are not yet complete, and to-
day the list of speakers was not ready.

On Sunday the strikers will hold a
meeting in a motion picture theatre
in Derby. This will be especially for
the women.

Chief Justice of the Shelton police
said no progress had been made in
finding the responsibility for the shoot-
ing, Tuesday morning, of Mrs. Mary
Smarsh, in the "Camden House" rest-
aurant. Moved by the expression of dis-
approval of a number of Shelton bor-
ough officials and civic leaders, Sher-
iff Volmer has recalled several of
his "strong arm" special deputy sher-
iffs. The haste with which he as-
sembled this squad necessitated the
employment of a number who under
ordinary conditions would not be cal-
led on to serve in such capacity. The
pay of \$5 a day, with additional al-
lowance of \$1.50 for expenses, attract-
ed many idlers to the strike office
when news of the easy money was
noised about. But the more objec-
tionable of the squad had been re-
leased earlier.

Most of the factories in Shelton are
idle today, for the holiday, and for
that reason there was hardly a soul
on the streets in the early morning
hours. Hundreds of the strikers and
their families attended the masses in
the Catholic churches, but returned
home at once, and in most instances
the strikers spent the day indoors.

George Barlow, warden of the bor-
ough, has issued a public appeal to
the Shelton residents to refrain from
congregating in crowds on the streets
during the progress of the strike.

Edward P. Curran read the burial
service. The obsequies were attended by
a large and sorrowing concourse of
friends, including delegations from the
Fraternity of Order of Eagles, also, Park
City camp, W. O. W. Many beautiful
floral tributes surrounded the casket.
James H. Roland, John F. Waterbury,
John U. Cullen, John Lane and Robert
Ward, Daniel J. Sheehan acted as pall-
bearers. The burial was in St. Mi-
chael's cemetery.

Thomas Kinnane, a well known and
respected resident of this city, died
early this morning at the family resi-
dence, 391 Capitol avenue. The de-
ceased was a gardener by occupation
and was employed for a number of
years by George F. Sanford. He was
a member of Live Oak Camp, W. O.
W. and a communicant of St. Pat-
rick's church in which parish he re-
sided for the past twenty years. His
widow and three sons, John, Thomas
and Martin are left to mourn his loss.

WORKMAN, JUST INSURED, KILLED BY COAL MACHINE

New Britain, Conn., Jan. 1.—Mrs.
Jake Deppa of this city, will probably
be the first person to benefit by the
workmen's compensation act which
was passed by the state legislature. Her
husband was killed this morning when
he was drawn into the conveyor at
the coal pocket of the City Coal &
Ice Co., of which Frank H. John-
son, president of the State Business
Men's Association, is the principal
owner. Mr. Johnston had Deppa in-
sured against accident and death yester-
day.

Deppa was receiving \$12 per week
and his widow will receive \$4 per
week for 312 weeks.
Mr. Johnston said that Deppa, who
was foreman of the gang underground
coal from cars, had no right in a pit
at the bottom of the conveyor where
the accident occurred. On this ac-
count, a dispute may arise and a hear-
ing be held by Commissioner George
B. Chandler, of the first district.